

• Families below the poverty level: Florence 10 percent; Lincoln City 12.5 percent; Coos Bay 12.7 percent; Canyonville 15.8 percent.

• Per capita income: Florence \$18,008; Lincoln City \$15,597; Coos Bay \$18,158; Canyonville \$14,017.

In almost every category that is normally related to prosperity and growth in a community, Florence — *without* a casino — did better than the casino towns. Yes, indeed, the casino developer had some very good advice.

*Debby Todd  
Florence*

**TRASH DAY**

As a former employee of BRING Recycling, I was disgusted by the obvious lack of research displayed in your recent article on the company. BRING most certainly is "a victim of its own success." Just another company that has made the almighty dollar more important than its workers. Had even one employee — not on the management staff — been interviewed, I am certain your article would not have had such a rosy glow.

As a resident and business owner in Glenwood, I am very concerned with the possible impact such an unethical business could have on our community.

"Trash Talkin'" was a more appropriate title for your cover than you could have guessed!

*Bear Diriwachter  
Eugene*

**SEX ED**

Many thanks to Aria Seligmann (cover story 6/12) and *EW* for the excellent survey of what's happening at the federal, state and local levels regarding reproductive rights, services and education. With so much antipathy toward the pro-choice, pro-child position among the powers that be, it is essential that the truth be told, and told frequently. Ms. Seligmann's article did that admirably.

*Frank Gibson  
Eugene*

**FOREST DIS-SERVICE**

I would like to add to James Johnston's great article (6/5) on the McKenzie River Trail. He's right: This area is known for its "outstanding scenic and recreational features." In addition, it is also the watershed for the Eugene/Springfield area, home to many rare and endangered species (red tree voles, for example), threatened native fish runs and some of our last stands of old growth.

Even though the McKenzie River Trail is designated a National Recreation Trail, it is still not protected from logging, not to mention the many acres beyond the trail on our National Forests. Right now, more than 1,000 acres in the McKenzie River area are literally on the chopping block. Many more are "sale pending."

What can we do about this? Call the McKenzie District Ranger Station (822-3381), responsible for these timber "contracts;" Lane County commissioners, who should be speaking out against these timber sales; Rep. Pete DeFazio (465-6732) or Sen. Ron Wyden. Or check out the website: [www.wildernessdefenders.org](http://www.wildernessdefenders.org)

You can also take the city bus (#91) and your bike to the McKenzie Ranger Station and find out which areas are going to be logged. The Willamette National Forest contains some of the most beautiful forests in the world and many threatened animals and plants that rely on an intact ecosystem. The Forest (dis)Service is destroying our national forests at an alarming rate. If you care about trees, clean air, the quality of our drinking water, fish runs, recreational areas, or any other number of things clearcuts impact, please *do something about it*. Silence = complacency.

*Kima Garrison  
Eugene*

**THE GOOD FIGHTER**

Below is the text of a message that I sent today to West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd. If you haven't heard or read his speeches

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**Free Seminars – Saturday, June 21st**

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- Food Preservation Seminar Hot Water Bath Canning Basics. 2:00 –4:00 pm at Olive Street Store.



## OFAM at The Shedd



**Rita Moreno**  
OFAM 2003 - Aug 16 Cuthbert



**John Pizzarelli**  
OFAM 2003 - Aug 7 Silva

**Oregon Festival of American Music**

June 27	The Jerry Douglas Band
Aug 7-16	OFAM 2003: <i>Easy To Remember: The Great American Songbook</i>
Aug 8-15	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>

*Borko's Magical Moombah* for kids: Saturday mornings thru June 7th

Call about American Music Institute music classes, lessons. Early summer camps include:

Summer SongFest	Jun 23-Jul 18
Summer Jazz	Jun 23-27
Summer Guitar	Jul 21-Aug 1
The Jazz Academy	Aug 3-16
Song & Dance Camp	Aug 3-16
Little Vaudeville	Aug 3-16



**Jerry Douglas**  
Friday, June 27 at The Shedd

**OFAM at The Shedd**  
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### HOW LONG DO WE WAIT?

I want to know when any young womyn and men can have the right to attend a congressional meeting and truly have a say in the outcome of the laws and regulations that control our freedom and justice system.

I want to know when our people are going to join together and say "No;" when society is going to realize that the "leaders" of our country are only in power for themselves and act as puppets to the monopoly that our country is run on; when money isn't going to have precedence over the well being of our people. How long until people start to realize that our 12-year-old girls look like they are 15 because of the hormones in the foods they eat? How long can pharmaceutical drug companies sell us *legal* amphetamines as diet pills? How long will our presidents receive money to support the little blue pill that gave my neighbor a heart attack?

Some day justice will prevail — the privileged people who are willing to step on anyone's toes will get what they deserve. How long can you wait for these days of true freedom and justice? How long until we admit that the high school drop out level is so high because only the people willing to conform are accepted and helped? How many kids have to turn to drugs for acceptance before we reevaluate our school systems? Our agricultural system is fucked, our economy is bombing as our "leaders" remain rich and powerful. The most useful plant on this planet is *illegal* — our brothers and sisters spend more time in jail than the rapists and child molesters, simply because they grow a plant made illegal because of money. How long are they going to tell us cigarettes are safer than smoking pot, or that alcohol is a social drug?

I want the right to choose to go to an alternative high school for all four years. I want to know that I won't be considered a terrorist for having an opinion. I want to live without fear, because I am more fearful of the police in this town than I am of walking around at 2 am in almost any part of this town. Who's going to carry on the knowledge of organic farming and low-impact living if we don't teach it in the schools?

When are we going to do something and join as the greater power, because in the end the people are the greater power. Let's use our freedoms and rights that have changed this country before.

*Dove Miller  
Eugene*